

March  
2024



COMMUNITY  
**PLAYERS**  
*of Salisbury*

# Back Stage



## From the desk of the President...

A lot is happening at Community Players.

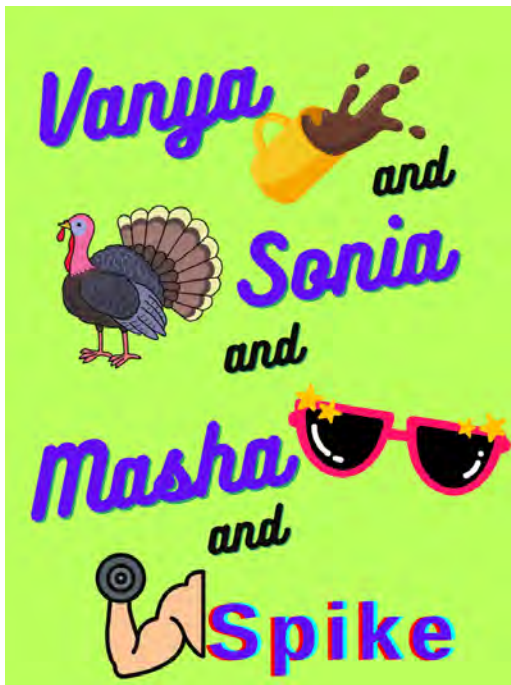
Rehearsals for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* are in full swing. Director Sharon Benchoff has selected a great cast. Tickets for the April 12-13 and 19-20 show at WorWic Community College are available at our website [www.sbyplayers.org](http://www.sbyplayers.org)

Auditions for *The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts* will be held Sunday, March 3, at 5 PM at Nutters Cross Road. The show focuses on the visual, musical and literary artists who emerged during the 1920s and 1930s in Harlem. The show will be performed at Players on April 26-28. For more information contact Matt Bogdan at [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com).

The Bordeleau Vineyards and Winery in Eden is again supporting Community Players with their Chili Cook-off and Spring Festival on Saturday, March 30, from 11 AM to 5 PM. The cost is \$5 per car and Players receive all of the entrance fees. Last year we netted over \$600. If you would like to help out at the gate for an hour or two to collect the money for this fundraiser, contact Matt Bogdan at [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com).

If you are not getting our regular email blasts you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/hpth1T>. We won't sell your address nor overwhelm you with lots of emails.

**Tom Robinson**, President



## Cast List

Vanya - Steve Culver

Sonia - Robin Finley

Masha - Judy Hearn

Spike - Damion Sykes

Nina - Ava Clayton

Cassandra - Melissa Dasher

Families can be a hoot, especially in the upcoming production of the comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, presented by Community Players of Salisbury, scheduled for April. This Tony Award winner takes us into the sunroom of Vanya's and Sonia's and Masha's home. Their late parents, professors and members of a community theater group, named their three children after characters in Chekov plays.

As middle-aged adults, the siblings wonder if they have experienced full lives. Yes, Masha is a famous film actress who has starred in five "Sexy Killer" movies. But Vanya and Sonia have remained in their childhood home.

At the beginning of the play Masha swoops in with her new, young boyfriend Spike and comic sparks fly. Adding to the tension, Masha has decided they will attend a costume party where she will attend as the sweet and lovely Snow White, while her two siblings will attend as two of the seven dwarfs. Add a soothsaying Cassandra a sometime housekeeper and a charming young aspiring actress next door and humor ensues.

This comedy, directed by Sharon Benchoff, is one not to be missed. Dates are April 12th and 13th and April 19th and 20th, presented at Wor-Wic Community College. Go to [SBYplayers.org](http://SBYplayers.org) for information and tickets or call 410-546-0099.



## AUDITIONS



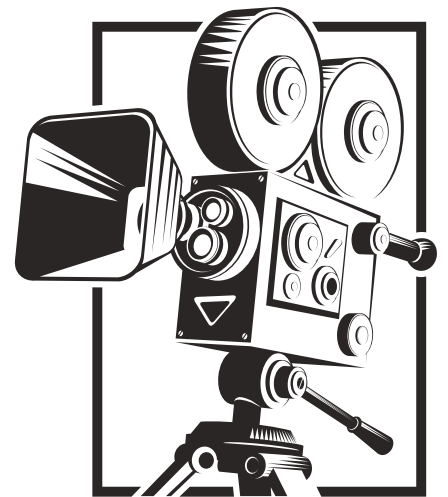
Auditions for The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts will be held Sunday, March 3, at 5 p.m. at the Players building at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury. The show focuses on the visual, musical and literary artists who emerged during the 1920s and 1930s in Harlem. Narrators, dramatic readers, and singers are needed. Auditions involve dramatically reading from the script and/or singing a song. If you are interested in singing, bring a song to sing. All are welcome to audition. If you want to audition but can't make that date, then arrangements will be made for another date. The show will be performed at Players April 26-28. If you have any questions or concerns or would like a copy of the script prior to auditions, contact Matt Bogdan, director, at 443-235-3272 or [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com).

## MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

The Community Players will be holding its first ever Movie Night on Saturday, March 16, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. with the showing of *Pot o' Gold*, a musical comedy featuring Jimmy Stewart. Jimmy, the owner of a failed music shop, goes to work with his uncle, the owner of a food factory. Before he gets there, he befriends an Irish family who happens to be his uncle's worst enemy because of their love for music and in-house band that constantly practices. Soon, Jimmy finds himself trying to help the band by getting them gigs and trying to reconcile the family with his uncle, an avid music-hater.

The social hour with games and prizes will run from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. BYOB. Soft drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Movie starts at 7 p.m. Reservations are encouraged but not required. For reservations contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com)

Admission to Movie Night is \$10 (cash or check) and pay at the door. Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day and support the Community Players in its efforts to raise monies for the building fund.





## **BORDELEAU CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER**

A Players' fundraising event will be held at Bordeleau Vineyards and Winery on Saturday, March 30, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. as part of the winery's Chili Cook-Off and Spring Festival. There will be music, food, and vendors, as well as an inflatable slide for the kids and a special appearance of the Easter Bunny with an Easter egg hunt. Admission is \$5 (cash) for a family or car, and all admission fees go to the Players. If you would like to help with the admissions, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com).

## **BACK STAGE SUBMISSIONS**

Articles, photos, etc. for publication in Back Stage should be emailed to me ([popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net)) by the 15th of each month. Also, if you have ideas for the improvement of our newsletter, please let me know!

*Rusty Mumford*  
Corresponding Secretary



Players' next meetings will be **Wednesday, Mar. 6 (6:30 PM) and Apr. 3 (6:30 PM)**. Join us to see where you can help with the second half of the season!

## THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff  
The Ides, Irish and Birthdays of March

1. In what Shakespeare play is the warning, "Beware the Ides of March" given?
2. In what musical does an elderly Irishman, Finian McLonergan, move to the United States to bury a stolen pot of gold?
3. This Irishman played King Arthur in Broadway's *Camelot*. Fans will also remember him as the original Dumbledore.
4. This red head began her acting career in community theater in Ireland before she went on to star in the original film versions of *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Parent Trap*.
5. With a March 7th birthday, he played LBJ on Broadway in the play *All the Way* and starred in *Breaking Bad*.
6. You may not have known this actress was Irish, but you do know her as Mrs. Lovett and the voice of Mrs. Potts.
7. Matthew Broderick, born on March 21st, played what character in the Broadway production of *The Producers*?
8. This Irishman starred in the West End and was nominated eight times for the best actor Oscar, but never won. *Lawrence of Arabia* and *My Favorite Year* (one of my top 5 favorite films) are two.
9. Born in March 1947, he composed music for Disney's musical production *Aida* in 1999 and *Billy Elliot, the Musical*.
10. This Irish playwright is best known as the author of four intriguingly powerful stage plays; *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*, *Krapp's Last Tape*, and *Happy Days*.

Answers found on page 6



All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts.  
~William Shakespeare



Movies will make you famous; Television will make you rich; But theatre will make you good. --Terrence Mann



"The audience is the most revered member of the theater. Without an audience, there is no theater. Everything done is ultimately for the enjoyment of the audience. They are our guests, fellow players, and the last spoke in the wheel which can then begin to roll. They make the performance meaningful."  
— Viola Spolin



"If you gauge how you're doing on whether somebody is responding vocally or not, you're up a creek. You can't do that; you kind of have to be inside of your work... And tell the story every day. Tell the story. Tell the story. Regardless of how people are responding, tell the story." - Billy Porter

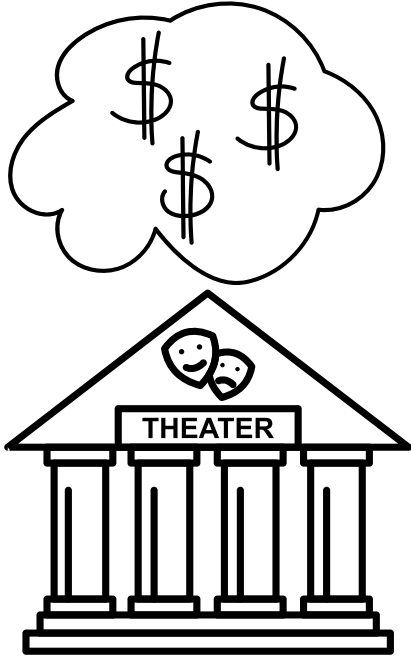


## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Julius Caesar
  2. Finian's Rainbow
  3. Richard Harris
  4. Maureen O'Hara
  5. Bryan Cranston
  6. Angela Lansbury
  7. Leo Bloom
  8. Peter O'Toole
  9. Elton John
  10. Samuel Beckett

## GRANTS



Players received a grant amount of \$25,000 from the Jack P. and Anne R. Smith Foundation (grantor) for \$25,000, specifically to be used for the building fund. Players thanks the foundation for their generous support.

A grant application was submitted to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, asking for \$10,000 to help with the conversion of our rehearsal space into a performing arts space.

A grant application was also submitted to the Maryland State Arts Council, asking for over \$200,000 to help purchase equipment for the new theater space. Attached to this application were letters of support from Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Mayor Randy Taylor. We appreciate their support in our efforts to renovate our building, as well as the support we receive from the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council.



## NEW DIRECTOR SHOWCASE

Have you ever thought that you might like to direct a show? Not really sure if you're ready or not? Would you like to have a mentor to help you through the process? We are planning to host a New Directors/One Act Show Cast at Players in July. Prospective directors will direct a one-act play with the guidance of an experienced director who will act as a mentor. If you are interested in directing a one-act or mentoring a new director, please contact Rusty Mumford at [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net) or 410-430-0423.

Three experienced directors have already volunteered to mentor prospective directors. Let's build our showcase.



**Community Players of Salisbury**  
**P. O. Box 2431**  
**Salisbury, MD 21802**

**NONPROFIT ORG.**  
**U. S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**SALISBURY, MD 21801**  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Please consider becoming a member of Community Players. If you are not sure if your dues are paid for the current year, please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it does not show 2023-24, your dues are not up-to-date.*



*Back Stage is funded, in part by a grant from the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council (SWAC). Players would like to thank SWAC for their continued support.*

**Next Meetings - Wednesday, Mar. 6 (6:30 PM) and Apr. 3 (6:30 PM).**

**Community Players Officers & Board of Directors**  
**July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024**

*President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com*  
*Vice-President: Matt Bogdan - oceancityhappyme@aol.com*  
*Recording Secretary: Darrell Mullins - dgmullins@salisbury.edu*  
*Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net*  
*Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com*  
*Immediate Past-President: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com*

**Board Members**

*Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024*  
*Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025*  
*Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026*

*Community Players is committed to celebrating an inclusive culture of creativity by welcoming actors, technicians, designers, musicians, and production team members from varied backgrounds with regards to race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, physical & mental ability, and religious & political beliefs.*